



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

was sitting high in a neighboring tree, near the end of a horizontal branch, singing his "preet, preet, preet, preet,—ooree, ooree, ooree," but the female was not seen during the half hour I watched while he sat in the one place and sang. I could not understand the situation, but later it became clear to me.

On July 26 we investigated the status of affairs at the crossbill's nest. It was exactly 100 feet from the ground, about five feet from the main trunk; but the supposed nest was only a collection of small twigs. It was really a "dummy," on which the birds had worked very faithfully for a time. For a while I was puzzled; then it occurred to me that the real nest must be somewhere near the place where the male had sat so long and sung on the former occasion. I turned my attention to the place, and presently the male came to the place, hopped carelessly along the branch, to a suspicious-looking tuft of small twigs, and then passed farther along the branch. Then I could see the nest, and could even see the female sitting there.

On July 27 the real nest was taken. It was sixty-five feet from the ground, among twigs ten feet from the main stem of the tall tamarack tree which contained it. It was taken by tying a long rope about twenty feet above the nest, and then swinging it out on the ground until the collector could swing alongside the nest. It contained four eggs, on which the female sat until shaken from her cosy home. The nest was made externally of dry tamarack twigs, with fine dry grass stems, dark brown lichens, and horsehair. The cavity measured three inches and two and one-half inches major and minor axes, and was one and three-fourths inches deep. The base of the nest was a mass of bark strippings and gossamer. When blown, two of the eggs were found to be in an advanced state of incubation, the other two showed only traces of incubation. The female came near the collector several times, and once or twice sat by the side of the nest while the eggs were being packed. Later she was taken with the nest. The male did not come near while the collectors were at work.

In this connection I wish also to record the occurrence of the white-winged crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) in this region in summer. On one occasion I saw a beautiful male at Swan Lake, with a troop of American crossbills, bathing at the water's edge, under circumstances where there could be no mistake, though I did not collect it. Later I saw a female at Lake MacDonald, near Belton, when there could be no mistake in identification. It is my opinion that the crossbill breeds in numbers in this region, an opinion warranted on observations extending over six years, though I have never taken a nest until this season; and contrary to the general data as given in the books, the height of the breeding season in this region is the mid-summer.

Lewistown, Montana.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Discovery of a Second Egg of the Black Swift.**—On June 16, 1901, I took an egg of the black swift (*Cypseloides niger borealis*) and recorded it in *The Auk*, XVIII, 394. The authenticity of this egg was questioned by many, and altho I was positive myself, since I had no proof I had to be contented in knowing that I was right. I therefore resolved that if ever good fortune favored me again I would secure sufficient evidence to convince the most skeptical. Consequently I have been on the watch ever since, but not until July 9th of the present year, 1905, did I receive my reward by discovering the second egg or set, the circumstances being identical with those of 1901; that is, the birds were flying around in the vicinity of the nesting site, sometimes nearby and again a mile or two away.

By watching most diligently for several days I saw the birds dart downward and over the cliff on the ocean shore, a few miles from Santa Cruz, California. The cliff at this point turns sharply inland, forming a miniature bay, and lowering until it finishes in a small gulch or large crevice in the land, reached by the breakers only at high tide.

The nesting site was in the cliffs where the shore line turns inland, at a point where the cliff is forty or fifty feet high, and overhangs twenty feet or more, forming a sort of cavern. The egg was placed on a shelf or pocket about twenty feet from the top of the cliff, behind a tuft of grass, with which the rocks in this particular place are covered, owing to the moisture from constantly dripping water. There was no nesting material whatever, the egg lying on the wet mud and a little of the trampled green grass, just as on the former occasion.

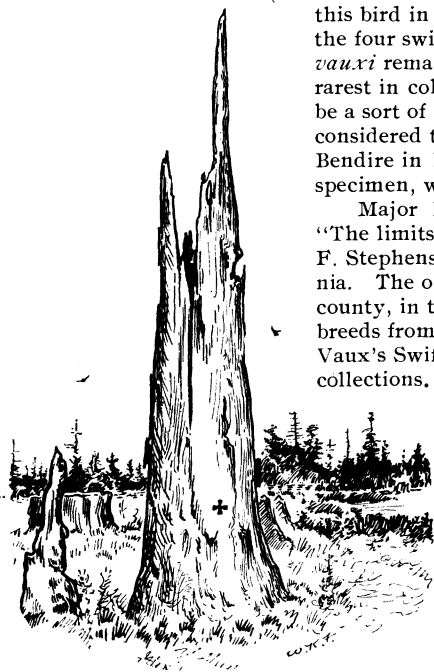
Upon preparing the egg I found that incubation was at least two-thirds advanced, and the specimen was saved with difficulty. I took the egg by means of a swinging rope ladder, with the aid of a dip-net and pole eight or ten feet long, after having flushed the bird and watched with field glasses her return to the exact spot from which the egg was taken. The egg is dull white, in shape is like a hummingbird's, and measures one and one eighth by three-fourths of an inch.

To make the identity more complete I yet had to secure the birds, which I did, after reaching the top of the cliff, by shooting them as they flew by a few minutes later. I still have the skins. I trust that this will prove beyond all doubt the identity of the take and place the same on record.—A. G. VROOMAN, *Santa Cruz, California*.

**The Nest and Eggs of the Vaux Swift.**—So little has been recorded concerning the nidification of the Vaux swift (*Chaturva vauri*) that an account of the taking of a nest and eggs of this bird in northern California cannot fail to awaken interest. Of the four swifts numbered in our avifauna, the eggs of *Chaturva vauri* remain, with the exception of those of the black swift—the rarest in collections and the securing of such a prize has come to be a sort of tradition in rarities. This may be realized when it is considered that the type egg figured by the late Major Charles E. Bendire in his "Life Histories of North American Birds," a single specimen, was taken in 1874.

Major Bendire in his work (Vol. II, p. 183) says, in part: "The limits of its breeding range are not well defined as yet. Mr. F. Stephens considers it only a rare migrant in southern California. The only breeding records I have are both from Santa Cruz county, in this State, and it appears reasonable to suppose that it breeds from there northward. But very few nests and eggs of Vaux's Swift have, as far as I am aware, found their way into collections.

"Dr. C. T. Cooke writes me from Salem, Oregon, that on May 9, 1891, he discovered one of their roosting and probably also breeding trees in the Willamette Valley—a large, inaccessible, dead and hollow cottonwood. The only eggs of Vaux's Swift I have seen were taken in June, 1874, near Santa Cruz, Cal. The nest is described as composed of small twigs, glued together with the saliva of the bird, and fastened to the side of a burned-out and hollow sycamore tree. It was not lined, and evidently was quite similar to the nest of the Chimney Swift. From three to five eggs are deposited to a set, and only one brood appears to be raised. The eggs resemble those of the Chimney Swift both in shape and color, but are considerably smaller."



NESTING STUB OF VAUX SWIFT

Cross denotes position of nest

considerably smaller."

The three specimens in the United States National Museum collection, mentioned by Major Bendire, measured: 0.72 by 0.48, 0.70 by 0.50, and 0.69 by 0.49 inch, respectively. The type specimen was taken by Dr. James C. Merrill, U. S. A., at Santa Cruz.

The predilection shown by this swift, for building its nest in the hollows of lofty trees, beyond the reach of the most ambitious oologist, is responsible, chiefly, no doubt, for the rarity of its eggs, but I was fortunate last spring in securing a set of six, taken by Mr. Franklin J. Smith, in Humboldt county, with a photograph of the nesting stub, of which a sketch is reproduced. Although it was an exceptional opportunity to secure the eggs, as the dead stump was not over thirty feet in height, the feat was not readily accomplished by the

(Continued on page 179)

is preoccupied by *Picus torquatus* Boddært, 1783, a South American form known as *Cerchneipicus torquatus*. As none of the other names given to the Lewis woodpecker prove available it is named *Asyndesmus lewisi* Riley.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam presented a paper entitled: "Work of the Biological Survey in California, with special reference to Birds," at a meeting of the Section of Ornithology, of the California Academy of Sciences, October 3.

The Twenty-third Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in New York City November 14.

The Southern Division held their annual October Outing Meeting at Newhall on October 28 and 29.

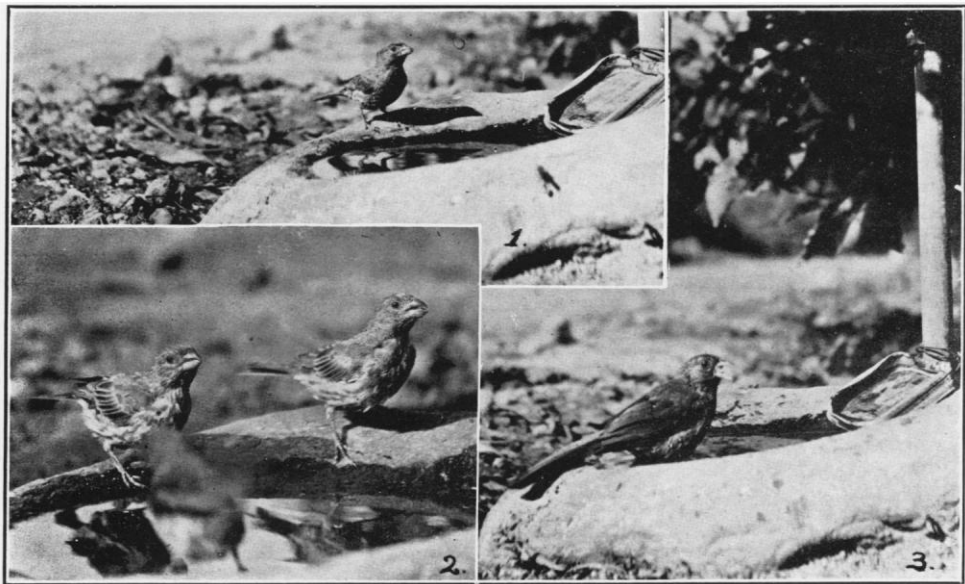
We again desire to thank The Pacific Monthly of Portland, Oregon, for the use of three plates for Mr. Finley's article.

space it has been necessary to defer four important articles. At the last moment we have been obliged to omit four portraits of European Ornithologists which were intended for this issue, and some club minutes already set up. These will appear in January.

#### FROM FIELD AND STUDY

(Continued from page 177)

collector, and while the eggs were saved the nest fell to pieces. The stump was situated in a small ravine, with only two or three tall trees near. The set was taken on June 15, and the eggs were fresh. The nesting site was discovered by watching the birds circling in rapid flight. They would circle nearer and nearer, and when directly over the stub would be seen to dart straight down into it. The nest



1 AND 2, HOUSE FINCHES; 3, ANTHONY TOWHEE

Photographed by Joseph Mailliard

In view of the publication of the recently adopted International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Entwurf von Regeln der Zoologischen Nomenclatur. Als Grundlage fuer einer Neubearbeitung der internationalen Regeln der internationalen Nomenclatur-Commission vorgeschlagen von F. C. v. Maehrenthal in Berlin <Zoologische Annalen, I, 1904, 89-138. Also Bull. 24 of the hygienic laboratory of the Public Health and Marine Service of the U. S.; reprint of English text by C. W. Stiles) Dr. David Starr Jordan will not publish his new code of nomenclature, extracts from which were given in this journal January last, pp. 28-30. Dr. Jordan has reviewed the English text of the 'International Code' in *Science* of Oct. 20.

Owing to unusual demands on available

was built of pine needles, glued together with birds' saliva, and fastened to the walls of the stub, which were very smooth. It was a narrow affair, and the six eggs lay side by side. The nest was only about two feet from the ground, so that the climber was obliged to descend almost the entire distance inside the nesting stub. This set of eggs is now in the fine oological collection of Colonel John E. Thayer. The eggs, as Major Bendire stated, are markedly smaller than those of the chimney swift, and are noticeably conical. They correspond exactly, in size, with the specimen figured in "Life Histories."—H. R. TAYLOR, *Alameda, Calif.*

**Birds Drinking.**—While in Santa Barbara this past summer my attention was attracted to the comparatively fearless way in which the

birds about the gardens came to drink and bathe in the bowls and basins placed under hydrants for their use, many species concerning themselves but little about the presence of people a few feet away. With persons reading or even conversing, say twenty-five or thirty feet from a favorite hydrant, many of the birds would drink or take a succession of refreshing dips with absolute indifference to the fact that any one was near, yet ever alert for their natural enemies.

Though I never have had any experience in the art of bird photography, the opportunities in this case were too tempting to let pass. Selecting a hydrant where the sun shone unobstructed for some hours in the day, a screen was rigged up, at a distance of seven feet, by means of a clothes horse and some old matting, while a borrowed kodak that had to be set up on a box and focused by means of a sheet of note paper instead of ground glass, a whole lot of patience and more failures completed the outfit. No, it did not either. The back or open side of the screen was against the thorniest rose bush I ever saw—or felt! Birds came too early and came too late and few of them chose the hours when the light was right, while somebody was pretty sure to walk by the spot almost every time a bird or so did come, and frighten it away just as it was commencing to look pleasant. The accompanying group is the better part of my efforts. These photographs were taken at a distance of about three feet.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

## Minutes of Club Meetings

### NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The Club met September 2 at the residence of Miss M. Ella Hall, Oakland, Cal. Seventeen members and one visitor were present. Owing to the absence of an executive officer, the meeting was called to order by the secretary, and Mr. W. Otto Emerson was appointed chairman *pro tem*. A series of resolutions from the Southern Division was read and discussed at length. On motion, the resolutions were ordered laid on the table.

The death of one of our Honorary Members, Mr. Walter E. Bryant, was announced, and the Chairman appointed Mr. H. R. Taylor, Mr. W. K. Fisher, and Mr. H. C. Ward a committee to draft resolutions expressing the regrets of the Club. The resolutions were ordered published in *THE CONDOR*. (Published in last issue.) The program was now taken up. Mr. W. K. Fisher presented "In Memoriam: Walter E. Bryant," and Mr. Thompson read a paper on "California Jay and Thrasher." Refreshments were then served by the ladies of the Club, and meeting adjourned to meet in San Francisco, November 4, 1905.

CHARLES S. THOMPSON, Secretary.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting was held June 22 in Room 1, City Hall, Los Angeles, with twelve members and one visitor present and President Law presiding. The applica-

tion of Mr. C. K. Knickerbocker, 303 Western Union Building, Chicago, Ill., was presented. Mr. G. Willett, 110 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, Cal., was elected to active membership. Resolutions recently passed by the Northern Division, regarding the issuing of permits for the collection of nests and eggs, a copy of said resolutions having been forwarded to this division, were then read. After thoro discussion by those present, it was unanimously voted to refuse to accept these resolutions as expressing the opinion of the Southern Division upon this matter but to give this opinion form in the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has at the urgent solicitation of the bird lovers and bird students of the State, and particularly at the solicitation of the Cooper Ornithological Club, passed a measure which will, if properly enforced, accomplish to a large degree a long needed protection to bird life; and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of furthering the said protection to bird life, the said Legislature has vested in the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners of the State of California and in them solely and at their discretion the power of issuing permits to persons desiring to collect birds, nests, and eggs; and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is making a strong effort to prevent the ruthless slaughter of birds and destruction of their eggs, and in the matter of permits for collecting, the said Board is issuing no permits except to persons who have satisfied the Board that they are collecting for bona fide scientific purposes, and that they will not abuse the privilege granted them, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club views with hearty approval the efforts of the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners of the State of California to confine the killing of birds and the taking of their eggs to true scientific limits by refusing to grant permits to those collecting for merely commercial purposes or as mere hobbyists; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club have been very fairly treated by the said Board of Fish and Game Commissioners and the examination they have been subjected to in order to secure permits, has been only such as is reasonable in order to carry out the purposes of the said protective measure; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of this the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the said Board of Fish and Game Commissioners; to spread a copy of the same on the minutes of the Southern Division; to publish a copy of the said resolutions in the next issue of the Club's official organ; and to send a copy to the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That certain resolutions adopted by the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club "viewing with alarm" the good work of the said Fish and Game Commissioners and published as the views of "The Cooper Ornithological Club" should have been labelled the views of "The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club."

The next meeting of this division being the October Outing Meeting, the President was authorized to name two members to act with himself as committee of arrangements for that meeting.

The program was opened with a most interesting talk upon "Hawaiian Birds" by Prof. Loye Holmes Miller, of the State Normal School, Los Angeles. At the conclusion of Prof. Miller's remarks opportunity was given for examining specimens and asking questions.

In the absence of Mr. John M. Willard his paper for the evening, entitled "Some Thoughts Regarding Young Birds," was read by the Secretary. This described several interesting experiences with the young of the Wilson phalarope, and of the snowy plover.

H. T. CLIFTON, Secretary.